Call for researchers (staff members of research organisations) with experience in measuring nutrition outcomes of policies and programmes and M&E for Madagascar, Mauritius, Comoros, and Seychelles (based in Madagascar)

About the Nutrition Research Facility

The **Nutrition Research Facility (NRF)** is established under the Knowledge and Research for Nutrition EC project, aiming to respond to requests for evidence from decision makers, to support the design, the monitoring, the evaluation, and the learning in relation to policies and programmes for **better nutrition outcomes** in low- and middle-income countries.

As a service to the European Commission (EC), the NRF works in priority with **decision makers** from the EC – including those posted in the Delegations of the European Union (EU), from EU Member States (in support of their international cooperation policies) and from EU partner countries.
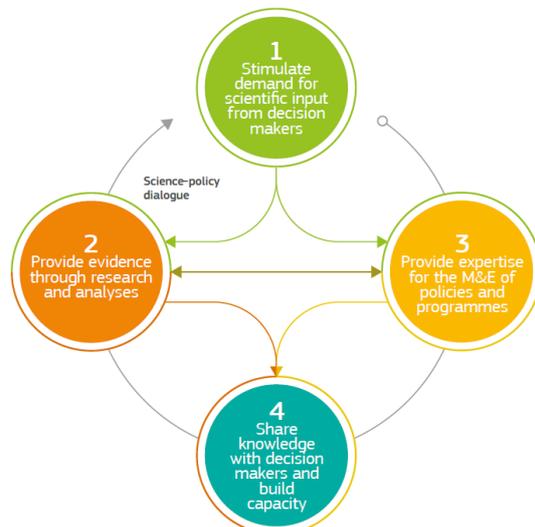
It seeks to **stimulate the demand for scientific input** from decision makers (1), to **bring evidence through research** and analyses (2), to **provide expertise for the M&E** of policies and programmes (3) and to **share knowledge** with decision makers and build their capacity (4), thus creating a continuous dialogue between science and policy.

Ultimately, the NRF aims to achieve 2 results: 1) to **improve the connection**, collaboration, communication and coordination between researchers and decision-makers and 2) to **strengthen M&E systems** for tracking the nutrition benefits of policies and programmes.

Operated between 2020-2024 by **Agrinatura** – the European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development – the NRF relies on a small team of researchers from European academia, with the ability to mobilise scientific networks in Europe, in partner countries and internationally.

Amidst the many initiatives aiming at enhancing science-policy dialogue, the specificities of the NRF are (i) its **nutrition focus**; (ii) its **support to EU development policies** and (iii) its ability to mobilise **scientific networks** to conduct research. As far as possible, the NRF coordinates its activities with other relevant initiatives to **build synergies** and avoid any duplication of effort.

The Nutrition Research Facility operates in a way to improve the connection between researchers and decision makers

The structure of NRF is built on 4 interconnected Work Packages (WPs). Within the Work Package 4 of the project – Support monitoring and evaluation of nutrition policies and programmes and upon the request from the European Commission, the NRF is providing technical assistance (TA) in M&E to measure the

nutrition outcomes of policies and programmes, primarily for the implementing agencies of EU external assistance.

Currently the NRF is providing support to the EU delegation and implementing partners of the EU funded Regional Food and Nutrition Security Programme in West Indian Ocean (2020 - 2025). The regional programme administered by the EU delegation to the Mauritius, aims to promote diversification of people's diet especially the vulnerable population such as pregnant women and children under 5 years of age. The programme seeks to strengthen food and nutrition security, as well as food safety and statistics on food and nutrition security in four countries of the West Indian ocean, namely Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Madagascar. The EU delegation is working with the FAO and CIRAD as the designated programme delivery partners, specifically responsible for establishing statistical systems and improving agriculture productivity, respectively. The objectives of the NRF support to the implementing partners are:

1) To improve the programme result frameworks (logframe and the theory of change)
2) To contribute to the design of the programme M&E framework and system, especially for tracking nutrition outcomes
3) To review baseline estimation plans and procedures and propose feasible methods to complete and capture a robust baseline situation especially for the nutrition related indicators

AGRINATURA is looking for a Researcher with experience in measuring nutrition outcomes of policies and programmes that will be assigned to support the implementation of relevant activities, as per the following Terms of Reference (ToR).

Proposed position	Researchers in nutrition outcomes of policies and programmes (staff members of research organisations)
NRF Activities	WP4 activities
Working Days	Estimated 50WDs (with possibility to increase)
Period of assignment	October 2021 to December 2022; to be extended based on the requirement
Place of assignment	Madagascar
Objectives of the assignment	The assignment would involve field missions within the country or region (Madagascar, Mauritius, Comoros, and Seychelles) and direct field-based handholding and supervisory support for implementing nutrition M&E system in the EU-funded programme, namely through qualitative research and analysis (with a view to gaining granular insights beyond quantitative measures). The NRF will agree upon the direct or hands-on support with the EU Delegation focal point in the first instance. It will be targeted at the partners implementing the programme and more specifically those actively involved in M&E activities. The expert will report directly to the NRF M&E TA leader, Mr. Ravi Kumar (KE2 – Monitoring & Evaluation expert)
Specific activities to be performed under this assignment	1. Provide and facilitate the NRF technical support to the designated programmes/projects and follow up communications with the EUDs and/or implementing partners. 2. Provide on-site and field-based support to nutrition M&E including for qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis in the designated programme. 3. Provide analytical support, assess the quality of available evidence and conduct statistical analysis as and when needed.

	4. When relevant, coordinate and work closely with other actors which provide technical assistance to the designated programmes (e.g. FAO, CIRAD) 5. Work collaboratively with the NRF team, contribute to the development of the respective outputs as per the relevant M&E fiche work plan. 6. Support the implementation of Training Needs Assessment (TNA) for the EUDs implementing partners primarily and support the development of training material when/if required. 7. Lead and/or contribute to the organisation and delivery of trainings 8. Ensure quality control of M&E process and outputs
Required qualification, experience and skills	*Qualifications & General professional experience* • Higher university degree (MSc or PhD) in nutrition or a related field (e.g. epidemiology or statistics) and at least 5 years of relevant professional experience. The expert <u>must</u> be a staff member of a research institution in partner countries. *Specific professional experience* • At least 3 years of professional experience in conducting primary and secondary research relating to nutrition public policies, strategies and programmes in developing contexts, including M&E • The expert should be or should have been part of an organisation with experience in at least 3 studies/surveys carried out in the field of nutrition and/or at least 3 experiences in the monitoring-evaluation of projects/programmes (baseline study, evaluation...) • Proven professional experience in conducting research and technical assistance for insitutions in Madagascar /Mauritius *Other skills* • Experience in data management and analysis and in using statistical software. • Extensive network and outreach within the development sector organisations and actors in Madagascar and in Mauritius, Seychelles, and Comoros., in the Indian Ocean region. • Proficiency in English, French is required. Knowledge of Malagasy will constitute an advantage.
Expected outputs	Together with the NRF team, the expert will deliver the following: - Contribute to the M&E plan - Draft plan of technical support on operationalising M&E plan - Delivery of technical support as per the plan - Contribution to baseline data analysis - Conduct training need assessment - Conduct qualitative surveys and focus group discussions as per the plan - Contribute to the context analysis and baseline report
Application	To apply, please send a detailed CV to nrf@agrinatura-eu.eu by 10/10/2021